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*fight* par 'combat de *travaux*' . . . . Aussi bien avons-nous peut-être, plus haut, fait au prote son procès plutôt qu' à l'auteur lui-même.

Ce second volume de 'Variétés' comble, ainsi que le fait remarquer l'auteur dans son intéressante préface, un regrettable lacune, en fournissant une lecture intermédiaire aux élèves qui ont terminé la partie purement pratique du cours et qui ne sont toutefois pas encore à même d'aborder les œuvres originales, dont ils ne tireraient point le profit que cette station préparatoire assurera en l'ajournant. Nous ne savons pas cependant si l'ordre, historique en certaine mesure, que l'auteur a suivi, est particulièrement heureux; ce pauvre avocat Pathelin dans son travestissement moderne, pour n'en citer qu'une victime, pourrait bien s'en plaindre un peu. Une chrestomathie, allant du simple au compliqué (toute proportion gardée, bien entendu), eût peut-être tout aussi bien rempli le but visé, sans altération de texte; mais c'est affaire de goût, et, tel que le voilà, ce volume rendra de précieux services.

Les notes grammaticales, succinctes mais souvent ingénieuses, qui suivent chaque chapitre, rappellent à l'élève sous une forme nouvelle les points touchés pendant la première partie du cours; elles sont rédigées de manière à le faire penser, et son attention y est dirigée tout particulièrement sur les idiotismes. Après avoir terminé ce volume, il sera suffisamment préparé pour aborder l'étude des auteurs, car nous aimons à supposer que pendant celle des 'Variétés' son maître aura donné une partie du temps disponible à une revue rapide mais *systématique* de la grammaire et de la syntaxe. Les excellents prologomènes de M. P. BERCY auront ôté à cette tâche tout ce que, sans eux, elle pourrait avoir d'ingrat et de fastidieux.

A. DUFOUR.

Mills River, N. C.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### BREYMANN'S FRANZÖSISCHESELEMENTAR-ÜBUNGSBUCH.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—In a late issue of your Journal I find, over the signature of Mr. RICHARD OTTO, some strictures upon a passage in PROF. WHITE'S

paper published in your issue of June last, as to the purely theoretical teaching of modern languages in German universities. MR. OTTO takes exception to PROF. WHITE'S statement as too sweeping, and calls the attention of your readers to the fact that there is at the University of Munich a chair of Modern Languages and Literatures, filled at present by PROF. H. BREYMANN, who is said to teach these modern languages practically. I use "said to teach," for reasons that will be obvious in what follows.

DR. BREYMANN'S text-books on the French language, published by the Macmillans in 1875, were recognized at the time as quite an improvement upon their predecessors; To use a hackneyed expression, they met a well-defined want. They were, however, very soon superseded by other text-books that filled this want even better, and their usefulness has long since departed. Of the works on the same subject published by DR. BREYMANN since his return to Germany, it must be confessed that the *purely theoretical* are models of methodical and comprehensive treatment; when, however, he comes to the *practical*—and I will take as a fair sample of his practice his '*Französisches Elementar-Übungsbuch für Realschüler*' (München, 1884)—then he sinks beneath criticism. As it is not to be supposed that many of your readers possess this remarkable work, I may be warranted in giving a few specimens of DR. BREYMANN'S French. I make no comments—none are needed. The italics are mine:

P. 7. Tu as blessé *ton* pied. Le comte est alité, il a *un* pied blessé.—P. 9. La chaîne est *fait* de fer.—P. 11. La cruauté est *un* défaut noir.—P. 23. On a *chassé un ours*.—P. 28. Nous avons eu *une* joie, nous avons vu *une* cagée de canaris. Le verre aurait-il *une* cassure?—P. 29. Notre ami a admiré la vue de la hauteur de *cette* montagne.—P. 30. Ton père *aura-t-il* fait son déjeuner à sept heures?—P. 33. Les domestiques demeurent *avec nous* et travaillent pour nous et *pour cela* il faut respecter les domestiques, car *chaque* travail est respectable—P. 37. Vous avez déjà vu des *ustensiles* de cuivre tels que des poêles et des *tuyaux*. On emploie le plomb pour *en* faire des encriers. Dans *les industries* on fait souvent usage de l'étain. Tous les métaux sont *solides* à l'exception du

mercure. Vous avez vu le mercure dans les *tuyaux* des baromètres.—P. 39. On emploie le fer pour *en* faire les clefs et les verrous.—P. 41. Le repas du matin *est appelé* le déjeuner.—P. 59. *Dans quel âge* es-tu à présent?—P. 73. Quand les oies et les canards quittent l'eau, leur élément favori, ils sèchent d'abord leur *plumage*, en secouant les ailes, ensuite ils nettoient et *engraissent* leurs plumes. Loin de l'eau ils mènent une *triste vie* et *s'ennuient* beaucoup.—P. 76. Vous *ne salirez non plus* les bancs et les tables. Vous ne *désunirez* jamais vos camarades, mais vous *adouçirez* ceux qui sont irrités. *Bannissez loin de vous* chaque mauvaise pensée, car un *bon enfant* rougira en *pensant même le mal*.—P. 80. Le paysan tend *sa* main pour toucher l'argent. La police défend de vendre des marchandises *corrompues*.—P. 90. *Au delà du cercle polaire arctique est située tout autour du pôle nord la zone glaciaire boréale*.—P. 97. Nous avons un beau verger *devant* la ville.—P. 115. Un jour deux *garçons de métier*, Joseph et Benoît, traversaient un village.—P. 116. Je me rappelle *d'y* avoir travaillé à un chaudron.—P. 122. Aubertot dont la résistance n'était pas *facilement* à surmonter,—etc., etc.

These are samples—there are very many more of the same kind—of what some may call *practical* French. The French call it *Charabia*.

To be sure, there are also a fair number of exercises in pretty good French—as grammar-French goes; for example, on p. 51 there is an exercise on "Les Doigts" which is quite acceptable, and if the reader will compare it with the first exercise in SAUVEUR'S 'Causeries avec mes Elèves,' he may perhaps account for what is not *Charabia* in DR. BREYMANN'S book.

The Bavarians murdered the French terribly at Bazeilles, but nothing to this.

Very respectfully,

A. TALLICHET.

University of Texas.

#### DR. FURNESS'S LECTURES ON SHAKESPEARE.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—The Shakespearian lectures given by DR. HORACE HOWARD FURNESS in the chapel

of the University of Pennsylvania have been an immense success. They have attracted the largest and most cultivated audience the University has ever known. DR. FURNESS as a Trustee of the University has led many a reform within the institution and placed all connected with it deeply in his debt. "More is his due than more than all can pay." But it has been hard, and indeed hitherto impossible, to convince the great scholar, learned as he is modest and modest as he is learned, that the people of Philadelphia would gladly hear some personal words from the man who has contributed to the world in his 'Variorum Shakespeare' the crowning-work of Shakespearian scholarship.

The first lecture, "Shakespeare's London," was delivered on the sixteenth of January. The second and third, on "The Study of Shakespeare," on the eighteenth and twenty-third, and the last, "Shakespeare's Art in constructing a Drama," on Friday, January the twenty-fifth.

Whether or not the lecturer's studies in dramatic 'time-analysis' have made more strong his memory for time and appreciation of its flight, I cannot say, but certainly he did have, most unhappily for his hearers, shrewd side-long glances at the dial, and much eye to his watch. His longest lecture seemed all as short as James Gurney's only speech in *King John*. For to the presentation of his rich and various theme he brought the charm of his personality, the beauty of his elocution, and all the fascinating aids of language, over the resources of which DR. FURNESS exercises at all times sovereign sway and masterdom.

The passionate life of England just shaking off its sterile curse at the very outset of its swift Elizabethan race, and all alive with strange and novel stirrings, he depicted in lightning words. A soul was created under the ribs of death, and for an hour old London, Cheapside, Bucklersbury, the Bridge, and all the places sacred in our memory, were as familiar as the streets of Philadelphia. We followed young SHAKESPEARE from his inn to the theatre, never losing sight of him through crowds of gallants, or among shouting watermen. The age was interpreted out of the mouth of its own children. From original